

# NIPOMO COMMUNITY

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# SERVICES DISTRICT

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*Celebrating 45-Years of Service 1965-2010*

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(805) 929-1133 FAX (805) 929-1932 Website: [ncsd.ca.gov](http://ncsd.ca.gov)

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## TURF-REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

### **CUT-OFF DATE FOR PILOT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS: February 15, 2009**

The Nipomo Community Services District (NCSD) is offering residential customers cash in return for reducing the amount of lawn area in their landscapes. NCSD will pay in the form of a rebate \$1.00 per square foot of turf replaced. The total amount of rebate per account is \$500, providing the conditions and the requirements of the program are met by the applicant.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

- Applicant must be the owner of a single-family-residence, and an NCSD water customer (one turf-replacement rebate per property or account).
- Tenants are not eligible for this program.
- Applicant is required to submit a rough drawing (with measurements) indicating the following:
  - Dimensions of entire yard;
  - Dimensions and location of landscape area to be converted to drought-tolerant planting;
  - Plant placement, plant identification and placement, and basic canopy size of trees to be conserved. (NOTE: Plants must be spaced for size at maturity)
  - Irrigation changes to be made for new landscaping.
- Applicant must submit representative photographs of the areas to be converted to drought-resistant landscape.
- Applicant must sign a contract representing the requirements and benefits of program.
- Applicant must agree to brief pre-installation and post-installation inspections as part of the approval process.
- Applicant must agree to not re-install turf/lawn in the area rebated. If lawn is replaced, applicant will be billed for reimbursement of entire amount of rebates received from NCSD, plus administrative costs.
- Applicant must choose drought-tolerant plant material from an NCSD-approved list (see the attached "[Selected Drought-Tolerant Plants for the Nipomo Mesa](#)"). Other plants may be used if prior approval is obtained from the Water Conservation Program.
- Applicant must not include plants listed on the "California Invasive Plant Council" web page at [Invasive Plants - North and Central Coast](#).
- Applicant must cover the soil between and beneath the plants with a minimum of 2 inches of mulch (3 to 4 inches is recommended). Mulch permitted: wood-material, cocoa-hull, gravel. Rubber mulch is not permitted. Impervious plastic is not permitted, unless it is part of a water-harvesting design.
- Applicant must modify or eliminate the existing lawn-irrigation system (if applicable) to irrigate the newly landscaped areas (if at all) through a separate valve(s) controlled independently of remaining turf area.

- Spray irrigation is not allowed in the rebated area. You may hand water or use drip, soaker or bubbler irrigation systems. If you hand-water, plants installed in the landscape as part of this rebate program must be one-gallon or larger container stock. Existing sprinklers in rebated area may be converted to a drip system. All irrigation systems must have an approved backflow prevention device.
- Water-permeable landscape/hardscape structures (such as decks, gravel, mulch, rocks, bark or uncemented pavers) may be used as a substitute for the existing turf/lawn.

***You are not eligible for this program if:***

- You have already started or finished your turf-replacement project.
- You replace your lawn with a pool, building structures/extensions, impermeable pavement, or plant materials not on the approved plant lists, or not previously approved by the NCSD Water Conservation Program.
- Your dwelling is a multifamily residence (i.e., apartment building) commercial building, or owned by a commercial or government entity.
- You are replacing a former lawn or turf area which is not currently being irrigated.
- You change your landscape plans after approved by the District, and proceed with the installation, without receiving prior approval of changes.

**Other Considerations**

- NCSD reserves all rights in making a final determination for approval or non-approval on a case-by-case basis.
- The approximate time between final approval and issuance of rebate is four weeks.
- Rebates are only available for projects approved in advance. This program is not for previously installed, NCSD-unapproved landscape modifications.

**How to Apply and Program Steps**

- Complete and sign all required documents. Be sure to attach the required photographs and other documentation of your planned project:
  - [Initial Conditions and Agreement](#)
  - [Residential Turf Replacement Rebate Application](#)
- Return the required documents, by mail or personal delivery, to:

Water Conservation Program  
Nipomo Community Services District  
148 S. Wilson Street  
Nipomo, CA 93444

- You will be notified of acceptance, rejection, or need for further information, by mail within 30 days after the cut-off date for pilot program applications.
- Complete your lawn/turf replacement project. Do not modify District-approved plans without prior acceptance by the District.
- Call the District or email [cwhitlow@ncsd.ca.gov](mailto:cwhitlow@ncsd.ca.gov) to schedule a post-installation inspection for final District approval.